

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00720 201558Z

46

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LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ASEC, ET, US

SUBJ: PROPOSED REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING INSECURITY

OF AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA

REFS: (A) ADDIS 0223, (B) ADDIS 0646, (C) ASMARA 0023,

(D) ADDIS 0593, (E) ADDIS 0706, (F) ADDIS 0323

1. IN OUR OPINION THE TIME HAS COME WHEN IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO MAKE STRONG AND HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO, CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON, REGARDING THE THREAT WHICH ANTI-FOREIGN AND ANTI-AMERICAN ARTICLES IN THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA POSE TO THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS IN ETHIOPIA.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS BOTH IN ADDIS AND IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. ON FOUR RECENT OCCASIONS EMBASSY VEHICLES WERE STONED (REFTEL A) AND THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STONING AND ROBBERY ATTACKS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL. IN NUMEROUS CASES THE ETHIOPIANS WHO HAVE HARASSED
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 00720 201558Z

AMERICANS HAVE SHOUTED ABOUT THE CIA. PEACE CORPS

VOLUNTEERS HAVE BECOME SO WORRIED ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY THAT MANY OF THEM WISH TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. (REFTEL B). IN ASMARA, CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY BAD. THREE HAND GRENADES WERE THROWN INTO THE USIS LIBRARY ON JANUARY 8 (REFTEL C) AND ON JANUARY 11 A VERY SOPHISTICATED EFFORT TO SABOTAGE THE MAAG PLANE OVERNIGHTING IN ASMARA WAS DISCOVERED (REFTEL D).

3. IN THE EMBASSY'S OPINION THE PROPAGANDA LINE PURSUED BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTED TO AN INCREASE IN BOTH ANTI-FOREIGN AND ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS. NUMEROUS PRESS ARTICLES HAVE BITTERLY COMPLAINED OF EFFORTS BY UNNAMED FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO RESTORE THE OLD REGIME AND TO UNDERMINE THE PRESENT ONE. TWO PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY ARTICLES SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT THE UNITED STATES HAVE APPEARED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS. AN ARTICLE ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THE JANUARY 19 ETHIOPIAN HERALD LEAPED FROM CRITICISM OF TIME'S JANUARY 13 ARTICLE ON ETHIOPIA TO AN UNMISTAKABLE ATTACK ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS THE FORMER "MASTER" OF ETHIOPIA (REFTEL E). TODAY'S "RADIO ETHIOPIA" NEWS BROADCAST AT 1330 WAS PRECEDED BY A THREE-MINUTE COMMENTARY ON THE CIA TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM MARCHETTI'S RECENT BOOK. (IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS CAME THE VERY PROMPT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR RATANOV HAD TOLD TEFERI BANTE THIS MORNING OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S NEW CONTRIBUTION TO THE EPMG OF 3,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER.)

4. I RECOMMEND THAT STRONG AND HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS BE MADE IN WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO REGARDING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EPMG'S MEDIA GUIDANCE AND THE INCREASING INSECURITY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA. AFTER CITING THE POINTS DISCUSSED IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS, IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE USG FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT ANTI-FOREIGN AND ANTI-AMERICAN TONE OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS AT A TIME WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER KIFLE WODAJO HAS ASSURED US THAT THE EPMG DESIRES GOOD AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. SURPRISE MIGHT ALSO BE EXPRESSED THAT PRACTICALLY NO ARTICLES OFFERED BY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00720 201558Z

USIS HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS IN RECENT WEEKS TO BALANCE THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET AND CHINESE ORIGIN ARTICLES WHICH HAVE APPEARED.

5. REPRESENTATIONS ALONG THE ABOVE LINES COULD ALTERNATIVELY BE MADE HERE TO THE PMAC CHAIRMAN OR THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD PREFER. SOME OF THE POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE HAVE ALREADY

BEEN MADE TO THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (REFTEL F).
WYMAN

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